

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for manufacturing a distal protection ~~device~~ element for preventing emboli in a blood vessel from moving away from a treatment site during a vascular procedure, the method comprising:

braiding a plurality of filaments to form an enclosure having a wall thickness ~~a distal protection element having a first end region having a first thickness and a second end region having a second thickness;~~

forming the braided enclosure to have a first end region and a second end region, each of the first and second end regions having a taper region and a neck region adapted for attachment to a guidewire; and

reducing the wall thickness of the enclosure along at least one of the first and second thicknesses in at least a portion of the first end region and second end regions.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising: heat treating the filaments of the braided distal protection element.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the heat treating step is performed prior to the reducing step.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the heat treating step is performed after the reducing step.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the distal protection element is a capture element.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the distal protection element is an occluder.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the reducing step comprises electropolishing at least one of the filaments along at least a portion of ~~one of the filaments~~ filament.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the reducing step comprises etching at least one of the filaments along at least a portion of ~~one of the filaments~~ filament.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[7]]~~ 2, wherein the etching step is selected from the group consisting of photo etching, chemical etching and laser etching.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the reducing step comprises acid pickling at least one of the filaments along at least a portion of ~~one of the filaments~~ filament.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the reducing step comprises mechanically grinding at least one of the filaments along at least a portion of ~~one of the filaments~~ filament.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the reducing step comprises cutting and removing a portion of at least one of the filaments ~~in at least one of the first or second end regions~~ along the first end region.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the filaments comprise nitinol wires.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the filaments comprise drawn-filled tubing wires.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method of claim 15, wherein the reducing step comprises removing an outer casing of at least one of the drawn-filled tubing wires along at least a portion of the wire.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method of claim 15, wherein the reducing step further comprises etching a core of at least one of the drawn-filled tubing wires.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the filaments comprise a combination of nitinol wires and drawn-filled tubing wires.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the filaments are made of material selected from the group consisting of metal, thermoplastic polymer, thermoset polymer, ceramics and glass.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the reducing step ~~gradually reduces one of the first and second thicknesses in at least one of the first and second end regions~~ creates a gradual decrease in the wall thickness along at least a portion of the first end region.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[18]]~~ 1, wherein the reducing step creates a stepped profile in ~~at least one of the first and second end regions~~ the wall thickness along at least a portion of the first end region.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the reducing step involves removing material from ~~at least one of the first and second end regions~~ the first end region in a spiral pattern.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the reducing step involves removing material from ~~at least one of the first and second end regions~~ the first end region in a longitudinally striped pattern.

Claims 24, 25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (withdrawn, currently amended): A distal protection device for preventing emboli in a blood vessel from moving away from a treatment site during a vascular procedure, the distal protection device comprising:

a distal protection element ~~having a first end region having a first wall thickness and a second end region having a second wall thickness, wherein at least a portion of at least one of the first and second end regions has been selectively removed~~ comprising an enclosure having a first end region and a second end region, each of the first and second end regions having a taper region and a neck region adapted for attachment to a guidewire, wherein at least a portion of the first end region has a wall thickness comparatively less than a wall thickness of the enclosure between the first and second end regions.

Claim 27 (withdrawn, currently amended): The distal protection device of claim 26, wherein a marker band is disposed around at least one of the first and second ~~end~~ neck regions.

Claim 28 (withdrawn, currently amended): The distal protection device of claim 26, wherein the ~~distal protection element~~ enclosure is comprised of filaments.

Claim 29 (withdrawn): The distal protection device of claim 28, wherein the filaments are made of a material selected from the group consisting of metal, thermoplastic polymer, thermoset polymer, ceramics and glass.

Claim 30 (withdrawn): The distal protection device of claim 29, wherein the filaments comprise nitinol wires.

Claim 31 (withdrawn): The distal protection device of claim 29, wherein the filaments comprise drawn-filled tubing wires.

Claim 32 (withdrawn): The distal protection device of claim 29, wherein the filaments comprise a combination of nitinol wires and drawn-filled tubing wires.

Claim 33 (withdrawn, currently amended): The distal protection device of claim 28, wherein the portion of the first end region having comparatively less wall thickness comprises a portion of at least one filament is removed in at least one end region of the filaments having a reduced thickness.

Claims 34-36 (canceled)

Claim 37 (withdrawn, currently amended): The distal protection device of claim [[36]] 26, wherein the reduction of wall thickness is portion of the first end region having comparatively less wall thickness comprises a smooth taper.

Claim 38 (withdrawn, currently amended): The distal protection device of claim [[36]] 26, wherein the reduction of wall thickness is stepped portion of the first end region having comparatively less wall thickness comprises one or more steps.

Claim 39 (withdrawn, currently amended): The distal protection device of claim 26 further comprising:
_____ a guidewire, wherein the neck regions of the distal protection device is element are
attached to a distal end of [[a]] the guidewire.

Claim 40 (canceled)

Claim 41 (withdrawn, new): The distal protection device of claim 26 further comprising:
at least a portion of the second end region has a wall thickness comparatively less than the wall thickness of the enclosure between the first and second end regions.